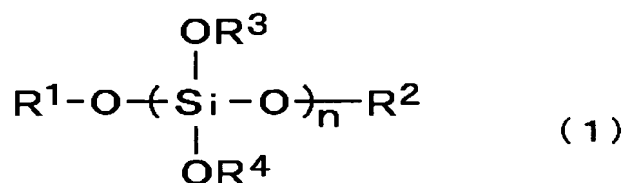


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): A coating composition curable by active energy rays which composition contains a siloxane compound (A) obtainable by the hydrolysis and condensation of an alkyl silicate expressed by the following general formula (1)



wherein R¹, R², R³, and R⁴ represent an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms or an acyl group having 2 to 4 carbon atoms, respectively, and n indicates an integer from 3 to 20, and a cation polymerization initiator (B) having a sensitivity to the active energy rays.

Claim 2 (Original): The coating composition curable by active energy rays according to claim 1 wherein the composition further contains an epoxy compound (C).

Claim 3 (Original): The coating composition curable by active energy rays according to claim 1 wherein the composition further contains a vinyl compound (D) having, in the molecule, a group having polymerizable double bond, and a radical polymerization initiator (E) having a sensitivity to the active energy rays.

Claim 4 (Original): The coating composition curable by active energy rays according to claim 1 wherein the composition further contains an epoxy compound (C), a vinyl compound (D) having, in the molecule, a group having polymerizable double bond, and a radical polymerization initiator (E) having a sensitivity to the active energy rays.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A method for forming a protective film by applying a coating composition defined in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 4~~ on the surface of a substrate and then irradiating active energy rays to the composition to form the protective film.